ROTHERHAM

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE YEAR 1902.

L. J. WEATHERBE, Medical Officer of Health.

JOHN LITTLE, PRINTER, ETC., ROTHERHAM.

Rotherham Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1902.

GENTLEMEN,

During the year ending December 31st. 1902, 249 deaths occurred in your district, giving a death-rate of 13·1 per 1000, the lowest for some years. The death-rate for 1901 was 15·21 per 1000, and for 1900, 15·5 per 1000. The deaths due to Zymotic disease numbered 14, giving the remarkably low Zymotic death-rate of ·736 per 1000 of estimated population, against 1.47 for the previous year.

Diphtheria accounted for 5 deaths, Measles for 4, Whooping Cough for 3, Puerperal Fever and Erysipelas each for 1. There were 14 deaths due to accidental causes, and 2 from suicide. The death-rate from Phthisis was ·421, and of other respiratory diseases 2·52.

The deaths of children under 1 year of age numbered 81. This gives an infant mortality of 125·77 per 1000 births, against 183·35 for 1901.

The births during the year numbered 644, 326 being males, and 318 females, giving a birth-rate of 33·89 per 1000.

The total number of cases of infectious diseases notified in the district during the year was 156. This is a great improvement on previous years. In 1901, 379 cases occurred, and in 1900, 263.

Undoubtedly the improvement in the sanitary condition of many properties, including the local and general treatment of sewage, the paving of yards, and the covering in of ashpits and middens, as well as the removal of cases to the Isolation Hospitals has played an important part in this satisfactory diminution of Zymotic disease.

When the sewage schemes now in course of construction, and others in contemplation are completed, and the Isolation Hospital for the South Rotherham District is finished, I hope for a still greater improvement in the health of the district.

Other sanitary improvements in the way of greater air-space in dwellings, more perfect ventilation, purer air in the neighbourhood of factories and collieries, by the abatement of the discharge of smoke and deleterious vapours, will no doubt in time greatly lessen the prevalence of Phthisis and other respiratory diseases.

The knowledge of the infectious character of Tuberculosis, and that the disease is preventable, and in the earlier stages curable, should enable us to greatly lower the death-rate, and improve the general health of the district. The provision of suitable sanatoria and the education of the general public in these matters, will in

time be a great factor towards this end. A certain extent of isolation and the use of disinfection has now become general in the treatment of consumption.

Another point which I would wish to mention in connection with the general health of the district, is the deficiency of a wholesome water supply, notably: Wickersley, Bramley, and Ulley. Many of the wells used give an insufficient supply, and are liable to contamination. This is a most important matter, which I hope may claim your attention during the coming year.

During 1902, the only schools closed owing to infectious disease, were those at Wickersley and Bramley, which were closed for five weeks in March and April, on account of an outbreak of Measles.

Although Small Pox has been prevalent in many parts of the County, we have so far escaped, no case having been notified up to the end of the year. I have many times reported on the want of an Isolation Hospital for Small Pox for the South Rotherham District, and trust that suitable provision for coping with the disease may soon be made.

A large number of nuisances have been abated during the year, but the removal of night soil, upon which subject I have reported unfavourably in previous years, is still unsatisfactorily carried out. On going through the district I find in many places, the ashpits and middens are full to overflowing, and on enquiry I find, are only emptied at very irregular intervals.

I cannot help thinking that the above conditions, together with the defective paving of the yards, are to a great extent responsible for the fact, that when an infectious disease breaks out in certain localities it seems almost impossible to entirely get rid of it. Undoubtedly these overflowing ashpits and middens are hot-beds and forcing houses for disease germs.

This is a matter of great importance, and one which should be dealt with energetically.

I beg to draw your attention to the statistical tables at the end of this report.

Yours obediently,

LEWIS J. WEATHERBE, M.O.H.

TABLE I.

Area, Population, Births, and Deaths.

Sanitary District.	Medical Officer of Health.	Area Acres	Estimated Population.	BIRTHS.			DEATHS.			Annual Rate per 1000 of Estimated Population.					Infant Mortality — Deaths under one year per 1000 Births.
				Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Zymotic Rate.	Phthisis Rate.	Respiratory Rate.	
Rotherham Rural.	L. J. Weatherbe	35,274	19,000	326	318	644	123	126	249	33·89	13·1	·736	·421	2·52	125·77

TABLE II.

Deaths at certain Ages and from certain Specified Causes.

Sanitary District	Deaths at Subjoined Ages.						Deaths from Subjoined Causes.															Deaths in Isolation Hospitals				
	Under 1 Year	1 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 65 years	65 and upwards	Small Pox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Croup	Typhus	Enteric	Puerperal Fever	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diarrhœa	Phthisis	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy	Heart Disease	Injuries	Diphtheria				
Rotherham Rural	81	32	8	9	54	65	...	...	5	...	...	...	1	1	4	3	7	8	48	12	14	1				

TABLE III.

Notification, Isolation, and Adoptive Acts.

Sanitary District	Isolation Hospitals	Infectious Diseases Prevention Act	Public Health Acts Amendment Act	Regulations adopted under Dairies and Cowsheds Order	Public Scavenging	Cases Notified or Ascertained.							Cases Removed to Hospital.						Total
													South			North			
						Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric	Puerperal	Erysipelas	Membraneous Croup	Total	Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Enteric	Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Enteric	
Rotherham Rural	North Rotherham Conjoint	Yes.	Part 3.	Yes.	No.	66	57	8	1	23	1	156	24	12	...	2	8	...	46